

Vocabulary Terms

Abatis - barrier of felled trees

Abolitionist - a person who opposes slavery

Agrarian - agricultural economy (Southern antebellum America)

Ammunition - military stores (shells, bullets, minie bullets)

Antebellum - the time period before the Civil War (1830-1860)

Artillery - a branch of service using heavy weapons (cannons)

Bastion - the portion of the fort that projects out from the main enclosure

Batteries - two or more pieces of artillery, either heavy (seacoastal) or field pieces

Bivouac - nighttime military encampment

Caisson - an ammunition wagon which carries tools for repair for a cannon

Canteen - water vessel used by a soldier

Cap pouch - small leather purse worn on a leather belt that held percussion caps for muskets

Cartridge box - medium-sized leather purse worn by a soldier to hold bullets

Cavalry - branch of military that fought on horseback

Civilians - non-military persons

Contraband - captured property, person, or goods

Dysentery - severe diarrhea which killed many soldiers

Earthworks - field works for protection

Entrenchments - a ditch or trench

Flagstaff - a staff on which a flag is hoisted

Floodplain - low lying area by a river

Flotilla - fleet of gunboats

Forage - to secure provisions. The Confederates became desperate for food, and sought food and supplies anywhere they could.

Freedmen - the former slaves living in cities or around military encampments or forts

Frock coat - a soldier's uniform coat

Fusillade - the discharge of many firearms simultaneously or in rapid succession; a barrage

Garrison - to place troops for defense

Gum blanket - a blanket covered in waterproof, rubber gum, issued to soldiers

Gunboats - an ironclad or timberclad, a boat equipped with heavy weapons

Gun turret - a late-war innovation for gunboats. A low, armored rotating structure with mounted guns.